

W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
Hurlock
Private

The W. C. Bradley & Son hardware store is a prominent commercial structure in the town of Hurlock, and it is distinguished by its decorative pressed metal front manufactured by C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. The neoclassically inspired cornice across the top of the two-story front included a large name plaque identifying the building's original owner, William C. Bradley. The early twentieth century storefront has experienced few changes since its construction around 1910. The original manufacturer's plaques are located on the lower outside corners of the three-bay first floor façade, which is marked by a recessed center entrance and large glass display windows to each side. The interior is also distinctive for its pressed metal ceiling and an iron vault made by the L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore. Another unusual feature is a narrow wooden ladder mounted on rollers for accessing merchandise stored on high shelves.

William C. Bradley and his son Leland A. Bradley were successful and active business leaders in Hurlock during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries. An advertisement for the hardware store claims a founding date in 1893. In addition to the hardware store that offered a general line of farm implements, stoves, paint, and seed, the W. C. Bradley also operated a "carriage repository" and later an automobile service station across the street from the hardware store. W. C. Bradley also served on the town's library board as president for many years. In 1908 he was awarded a franchise by the town to operate a municipal water works.

The site on which the hardware store is located was purchased from James M. Andrews in September 1901 for \$300. The deed states that the lot was divided off the Andrews farm and it was located next to the "Bank lot." The hardware store remained under Bradley family ownership until 1959 when Leland A. Bradley and his wife Ruby sold the business location to Robert H. and Elaine M. French, in whose hands the store remained until 1973. During the last quarter of the twentieth century, the hardware store was operated by Harry E. Parker, Brooks W. Parker, and his son, Brooks W. Parker, Jr.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-339

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store

other Hurlock Hardware Company

2. Location

street and number 102 Broad Street not for publication

city, town Hurlock vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William N. and Brenda B. Windsor

street and number 102 Broad Street telephone 410-943-1302

city, town Hurlock state MD zip code 21643

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 650 folio 1

city, town Cambridge tax map 400 tax parcel 614 tax ID number 15-003510

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Noncontributing
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-339

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store, also known as the Hurlock Hardware Store, stands at 102 Broad Street in the center of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay by four-bay frame store building is distinguished by a pressed metal front manufactured by C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana, which is embossed in raised lettering on rectangular panels on the bottom of each decorative leg on the outside edges of the first story elevation. The building is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad otherwise in pressed metal imitating rusticated concrete blocks. The medium pitched gable roof behind the storefront is covered with seamed tin.

DESCRIPTION

Built during the first decade of the twentieth century (c. 1910), the two-story, three-bay by four-bay frame store building is distinguished by a pressed metal storefront and pressed metal sides. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with seamed metal. The southeast (main) elevation is a three-bay commercial façade with a recessed double-door entrance and flanking glass display windows. The entrance recess has a poured concrete paving with an incised star in the center. The ceiling is sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The adjacent windows rest atop raised panel knee walls, and a decorated muntin divides the two storefront windows. Located at the lower outside corners of each pressed metal leg on the outer edge of the commercial windows are embossed name plaques identifying the manufacturer of the pressed metal front, C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. Sheltering the first floor is a metal awning supported on a framework of metal pipe. The second floor is defined by three boarded over window openings. Partially damaged in wind storm, part of the neoclassical modillion block cornice and name plaque with W. C. Bradley & Son in large block lettering have been stored in the back room. The missing section of pressed metal front reveals a portion of diagonal board sheathing, also known as western plank framing that supports the decorative metal façade.

The side elevation are covered with pressed metal in the pattern of rusticated concrete blocks. High boarded over windows of square proportions mark the first story, and boarded over six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. The window openings have a molded lintel. Rising through the west side is an interior side brick chimney stack.

The interior retains a pressed metal ceiling and narrow tongue-and-groove board flooring. Fixed in the northwest corner of the commercial space is an early twentieth century staircase with a square paneled newel post, turned balusters and a molded handrail that rises in two flights to an enclosed section of staircase. The enclosed section of staircase is entered through an early twentieth century five-panel door, and the side is enclosed with tongue-and-groove beaded

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boards. Also distinguishing the northwest corner is an iron vault made by L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore as well as a narrow ladder mounted on a roller to access items stored at high levels. A second ladder is stored in the back room and was mounted on the east side of the building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-339

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder C.L. Mesker & Co., Evansville, Indiana
(Pressed Metal Storefront)

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store is a prominent commercial structure in the town of Hurlock, and it is distinguished by its decorative pressed metal front manufactured by the C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. The neoclassically styled cornice includes a large name plaque identifying the building's original owner, William C. Bradley. The early twentieth century storefront has experienced few changes since its construction around 1910. The original manufacturer's plaques are located on the lower outside corners of a three-bay commercial front with a recessed entrance and large glass display windows. The interior is also distinctive for its original pressed metal ceiling and iron vault made by the L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore. Another unusual survival is a narrow wooden ladder mounted on rollers for accessing merchandise stored on high shelves.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

William C. Bradley and his son Leland A. Bradley were successful and active business leaders in Hurlock during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An advertisement for the hardware store claimed a founding date in 1893. In addition to their hardware store that offered a general line of farm implements, stoves, paint, and seed, W. C. Bradley also operated a "carriage repository" and later an automobile service station. In 1908, the town granted him a franchise to operate the early water system. He also served for many years as the town's library board president.

The site on which his hardware store was built was purchased from James M. Andrews in September 1901 for \$300.¹ The deed states that the lot was divided off the Andrews farm and located next to the "Bank lot." The hardware store remained under Bradley family ownership until 1959 when Leland A. Bradley and his wife Ruby sold the business location to Robert H.

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 26/1, 9.23.1901, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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and Elaine M. French,² in whose hands the store remained until 1973.³ During the last quarter of the twentieth century, the hardware store was operated by Harry E. Parker, Brooks W. Parker and his son Brooks W. Parker, Jr.⁴

² Dorchester County Land Record, 117/202, 12.3.1959, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, 182/588, 11.16.1973, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, 215/671, 8.19.1980; 270/516, 7.26.1991; 650/1, 5.3.2005, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
102 Broad Street
Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland

CHAIN OF TITLE

650/01 Brooks W. Parker

to

5.3.2005 William N. Windsor and Brenda B. Windsor

\$155,000 Parcel 1: 126' x 60' Adjacent to bank property
Parcel 2:
Parcel 3:

270/526 Brooks W. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, Jr.

to

7.26.1991 Brooks W. Parker

102 Broad Street

215/671 Harry E. Parker and Brooks W. Parker

to

8.19.1980 Brooks W. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, Jr.

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182/588

Robert H. French and Elaine Mary French

to

11.16.1973

Harry E. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, trading as
Hurlock Hardware Company

117/202

Leland A. Bradley and Ruby W. Bradley

to

12.3.1959

Robert H. French and Elaine M. French

Parcel 1: "Beginning at the southeast corner of the Bank lot, running thence North, eighteen degrees and fifty-four minutes West, along the eastern boundary lien of said Bank lot and another Lot, one hundred and twenty-six feet, thence North, sixty-nine degrees East, sixty feet, then South eighteen degrees and fifty-four minutes East, one hundred and twenty six feet to said Broad Street, then with said Broad Street, sixty feet to the place of beginning."

Parcel 2: and Parcel 3 directly adjacent to the east of the store lot

CL 26/1

James M. Andrews and Sallie N. Andrews

to

9.23.1901

William C. Bradley

\$300all of that certain piece or parcel of land, situated lying and being in the village of Hurlock, in said Dorchester County, Maryland, lying on the North side of Broad Street; the same being

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a part of the farm of the said James M. Anderson; said property being more particularly known and described by the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, namely. Beginning at the South east corner of the Bank Lot, running thence North....

CL 30/48

James M. Andrews

to

9.27.1904

William C. Bradley

Adjacent lot \$25.00

Sanborn Map Company, 1914, Hardware and Agricultural Implements, Outline of two-story structure, implement storage in rear of adjacent lot

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Hurlock: The Gateway to Dorchester County: The Pride of Del-Mar-Va's Prosperous Properties (1926), p. 29.

Interview with William N. Windsor, 10.30.2007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 18,000 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 18,000 square feet

Quadrangle name Federalburg, MD 1944 Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake County Heritage & Preservation	date	10/30/2007
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



GLEN OAK HOTEL

C. M. STEVENS, Prop.

Phone 21

HURLOCK, MD.

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Soft Drinks and Confectionery

HURLOCK, MD.

HURLOCK ICE CREAM CO.

Manufacturers of

ICE CREAM AND WATER ICES

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HURLOCK, MD.



HARDWARE

Phone 1

STOVES - PAINTS - SEEDS

and

FARM IMPLEMENTS



GARAGE

Phone 69

ALWAYS OPEN

With

Service that you'll appreciate

W. C. BRADLEY & SON





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W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
 Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle, 1944



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W. C. Brancey & Son (Harrison Stone)
Huxloca, Dorchester Co., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

7/07, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHIC

NAT. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/1

D-339
W.C. Bradley Store
Hurlock
Private

1900s

This turn-of-the-century hardware store, along with the Nichols House (D-340) across the street, are indicative of the wealth of their original owner, W.C. Bradley, a leading merchant in Hurlock. Its basically plain exterior is enlivened by a highly decorative patterned facade, topped by a dentiled cornice, which is, in turn, crowned by a large sign with raised lettering spelling out the owner's name. The building extends four bays to the rear and is lit on both stories by windows along each side.

D-339
W.C. Bradley Store
120 Broad St.
Hurlock
Federalsburg Quad.
Dorchester Co.



Bradley Store, Hurlock 17x1-44

50% |

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2 SHOTS: Fig (6.5) 176% and... 50%

W.C. Bradley Stone

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P69

M. Bourne Nov 1975